

Chuitna Coal Project Status Update for March-April 2009

Status of the Chuitna Coal Project

At this time a complete permit application package for the Chuitna Coal Project has not been submitted to the Division of Mining, Land and Water and no formal review under AS 27.21 and 11 AAC 90 has been initiated. Once the entire permit application package has been submitted an evaluation of the completeness of the application and of the cumulative impacts of the project can be undertaken.

During the last two month, no new or revised project documents have been submitted by PacRim Coal to the state or federal agencies. In late April, state and federal agencies met with PacRim Coal to discuss Water issues and proposed water balance. A copy of the presentation by the company has been added to the Chuitna Coal Project Website.

Health Impact Assessments

As part of the federal NEPA process, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as part of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Chuitna Coal Project. An HIA is used to systematically identify the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a policy, plan, decision, or project on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA are relatively new to the United States and only recently have they been used as part of the NEPA process in Alaska. The scopes of health effects to be addressed in this HIA are limited to those that can be considered under NEPA to be reasonably linked directly, indirectly, or cumulatively to the proposed action.

Currently, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, the State of Alaska and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium are working on finalizing the scope of the HIA proposed for the Chuitna Coal Project.

DNR Website for the Chuitna Coal Project:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/chuitna/index.htm>

This site contains information about the Chuitna Coal Project, copies of previous month's newsletters and presentations from informational meetings related to this project.

Other State and Federal Permits

In addition to ASCMCRA permitting requirements, the Chuitna Coal Project must address the concerns of other state and federal agencies. As part of the Department of Natural

Resources statutory role as lead agency in matters relating to exploration, development and management of mining activities, the DNR Office of Project Management and Permitting has developed a document describing some of the permits and approvals to help the public understand the permitting of mines in Alaska. This document and other useful information are available on the web at:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/mining/largemine/index.htm>

Chuitna Project SEIS

As part of the federal NEPA process the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined that a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) would be prepared for the Chuitna Coal Project. Scoping for the SEIS was completed in August of 2006. Currently agencies are reviewing the available baseline data in preparation to write the Draft SEIS. During March, EPA, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and Alaska Department of Natural Resources met with the company to discuss the status and timeline for the SEIS. Included in these discussions were updates to the companies proposed action and alternatives to be considered in the SEIS.

Information concerning the SEIS process can be found at:

<http://www.chuitnaseis.com/>